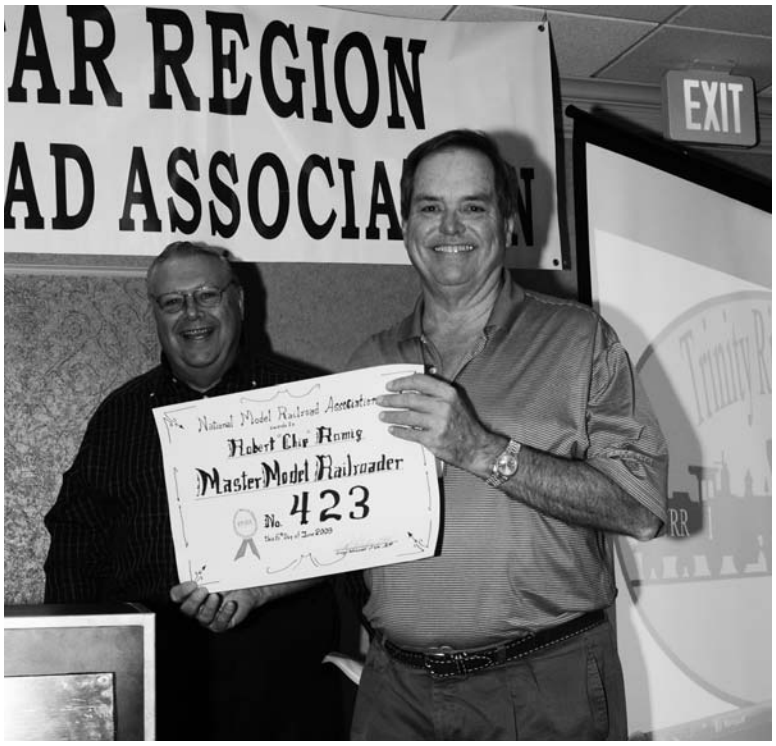
The Marker Lamp

Volume 55 Number 4 Fall 2009



The Lone Star Region's latest MMR Chip Romig is awarded MMR #423 at the DFW Convention in June.

Alamo Rails
San Antonio

June 2-6, 2010

Mark you calendar to attend

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The Marker Lamp

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Railroad Association

Volume 55, Number 4

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

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Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

Aren't you glad you are a model railroader who can immerse yourself in the many enjoyable facets of our hobby and ignore the weather and concerns about the world? It has been said that a model railroad may be complete, but it is never finished. Thus, we always will have something to do. As the Fall season begins, our attention may now refocus on getting to those railroad projects that were delayed by the pleasures of Summer.

When I was a teenager, I received a book entitled *Never Leave Well Enough Alone* written by Raymond Loewy. Loewy was one of the greatest and most prolific industrial designers. His designs and ideas sparked revolutions in products in all aspects of life. He created the streamlined designs for many railroads, such as the Pennsylvania RR's "Broadway Limited", K4, S1, GG1, the Northern Pacific's "North Coast Limited", the Fairbanks-Morse H series diesels, and the Baldwin "Sharknose". He also designed the futuristic Studebaker "Avanti", Greyhound "Scenicruiser", Coca-Cola bottle redesign, Frigidaire appliances, NASA's "Skylab" space station interior, and the Zippo lighter.

In his book Loewy explained his philosophy that, as the world was recovering from the Great Depression, fresh, innovated designs and approaches to doing things needed to be created. However, Loewy felt it was most important that things should not be changed just for the sake of change. There needs to be sound, logical, practical, and economically feasible reasons for changes. While I do not remember much that was in his book, that title of *Never Leave Well Enough Alone* and Loewy's basic philosophy about innovation stuck with me throughout my life.

During the past few months I have been listening to some intriguing ideas on how to improve our Lone Star Region conventions. Yes, I know we usually do the same old things such as clinics, layout tours, auctions, contests, and eating. For most of us there is not anything particularly wrong with those things. However, maybe if we look a little closer, we might not want to "leave well enough alone". With that thought in mind, a committee of the most experienced contest managers and modelers in the LSR is reviewing ways to: (1) streamline the judging process and make it more flexible, (2) speed up the presentation of awards at the banquet, (3) create judging teams composed of varied experience levels, (4) develop formalized training courses for judges, (5) speed up the preparation of awards, (6) standardize and publish the contest room procedures, (7) keep the cost of awards within the restricted budget. That is quite a list of projects, and it will be one of those things that is complete but never finished.

Recently we had a most enjoyable visit with some of the fine people in San Antonio. Paul Steves, Al Boos, Joe and Sharon Mainz, SAMRA members, and others made this visit a memorable event. Paul and Al are co-chairmen of the 2010 Alamo Rails LSR convention. Elsewhere in this *The Marker Lamp* Paul has a great preview article about the convention. We visited the Texas Transportation Museum where a wide variety of activities will take place on Friday night. This is an interesting place featuring prototype to model trains, fire trucks, vintage vehicles, and other things that move.

We were guests at Paul's Alamo Rails convention planning session and were very impressed with how far along they are in developing the convention. As the LSR convention chairman, I view my responsibilities are to provide information; cost, attendance and event analyses; ideas, and "lessons learned" experiences. However, the local group is responsible for their LSR convention. From past experiences, we know the San Antonio railroaders will put on a fantastic convention.

So don't wait …go ahead NOW, notify the registrar, Don Scott (katydon@satx.rr.com), that you are bringing the whole family to the Alamo Rails convention next June 2nd. Don will be surprised at such a premature contact from you, but we railroaders get excited early about going to great railroading events.

View from the Spar Pole

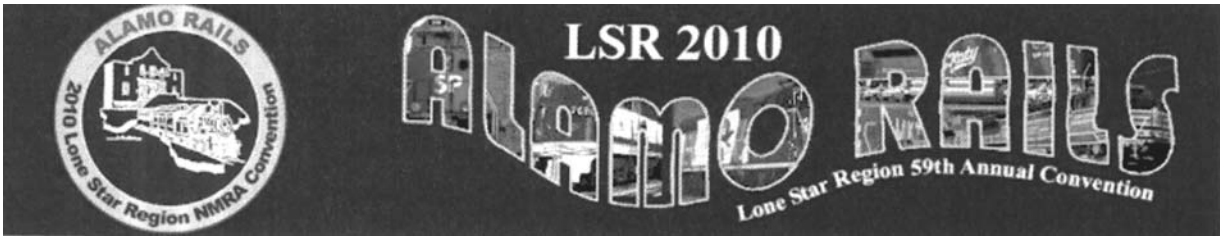
By Chuck Lind, MMR

I have just returned from Colorado and attending the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Colorado Springs. On the way to the convention I met up with friends and did some train chasing as well as some sightseeing. Our first stop was Chama, naturally. I don't believe any trip to the area is complete without a trip to Chama. This one was even more special since they had the 315 and C-19 engines running on their line for some special trips as well as a set up from some great night photos.

From there we headed to Alamosa and onto Fair Play. If you have never been to this area they have South Park City, a museum of homes and business from the early days of Colorado. If you are interested in Colorado or architectural building from the late 1800's this is a must see area. I took loads of photos of several building that will go onto my must build list for my layout.

We headed up to the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden and just had to make a stop at Caboose Hobbies in Denver to pick up some of those necessary supplies before heading to the convention.

As always the convention draws a crowd, close to 1800+ modelers and vendors. Some of the finest model building is always in the contest room, and yes I did enter models and photos and took home some awards to add to my wall. The vendor room was full of those items that you can usually only find at the convention, so doing some shopping is always a priority. This year's clinics were some of the best I can remember in recent years and kept you busy with everything from programming your DCC to building trees. A trip up Pikes Peak was an extra fair event for the convention and since I had never done that, I took the opportunity. The trip up on the cog railroad was great but the weather didn't cooperate and we headed into the clouds at about 12,000 feet. They had had snow the day before, so everyone played in it as they took photos on the top, just don't move fast there is no oxygen. The days flew by and it was time to make the trip back to Texas and the work waiting for me on my desk.



It is that time again. Fall is here and next summer seems like a dream to come. We are looking at our layouts after a scorcher of a hot summer and getting ready in some locations, for layout open house in November. It would seem that the last thing on anyone's mind is next years LSR convention. Well, fear not. The Alamo Convention folks have been busy setting up events and we can share some of them with you.

We have already advised you of the Holiday Inn Select with a great rate. The next big item is the convention get together event. The event will be held on Friday night at the Texas Transportation Museum. Dinner will be served. For those that do not know of the Texas Transportation Museum, the folks there will be providing train rides on the 1:1 scale Longhorn and Western Railroad. The L&W runs on 3,700 feet of track on the property with 1,765 ft of mainline. It might seem short, but it is packed with passenger cars, cabooses and flat cars converted to open air passenger cars. TTM is also home to the San Antonio Garden Railroad Society. They have a very nice outdoor layout for your enjoyment and as always, every layout has something to take away for your projects. For the smaller scale, there is AMRE, or the HO scale Alamo Model Railroad Engineers. The layout occupies a section of the main museum building. The layout will be on the Layout tour and Operating Session tour. We cannot leave TTM without a mention of their vehicle collection. Of note is there 1898 American La France horse drawn fire pumper, plus more modern fire trucks,

and an eclectic collection of vehicles. It will be a fun time for young and old, and it is about 15 min from the convention hotel. The event will start at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be open seating with flexible eating, so you do not have to rush to the museum. There will be plenty of food for all.

There has been activity in other areas of the convention. The New Braunfels Museum folks will be handling the Silent auction part of the convention. As always, this is a great opportunity to both sell and buy items that you do not need and you cannot be without.

The contest folks, chaired by Duane Richardson, have come up with a great contest theme, the "Prove Them Wrong" contest. Information was published in the last Marker Lamp issues, as well as this issue.

For the layout tour, we already have some excellent ones signed up for your viewing pleasure. At least two have been featured in Great Model Railroads. The Mainz layout featuring the SP around Flatonia, TX will be both on the tour and operating session. SAMRA's own layout will be on both the tour and operating session as well as the already mentioned AMRE's layout at TTM. We are having a "G" scale garden layout for viewing and operating. A "G" indoor layout and the SANTRAK folks (N Scale) will also have their layouts open for viewing. Just the tip of the iceberg.

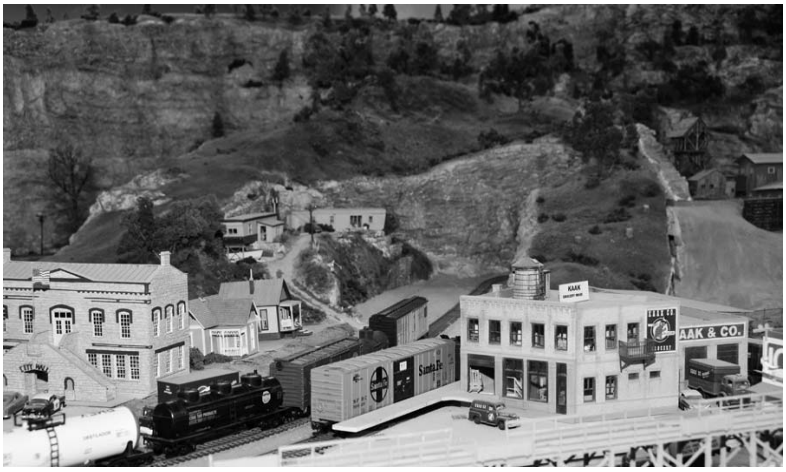
There will be a **SAMRA railcar for sale** at the convention. The San Antonio and Northern Railroad has a new limited run PS-1 40 foot boxcar promoting the 2010 Lone Star Region NMRA convention in San Antonio. This limited run, HO gauge, custom club car is being made by Accurail for SAMRA . Each side of the car is slightly different (see the artwork proof). One side has the convention herald and the other side has the convention banner with the dates and location. The car number is 2010 (the convention year), however matching decals are available to change this number for those who want to operate more than one car. Convention participants who order and pay before the early cut off date for the convention — $18.00 each After the early convention registration cut off date and at the convention — $20.00 each.

Remember, this is a limited run project and we are assured of at least 190 cars. Therefore, the first 190 orders are assured of getting a car and those beyond this number will be out of luck. The above pricing is for cars picked up at The Bob Clark Rail Heritage Museum or the LSR Convention. This is a limited run car, so buy often and be ready to buy early. Those who want the car shipped to them, please add $8.00 each for shipping and handling. You can send your checks (made out to SAMRA) to SAMRA Car, Wayne Hammelman at 737 River Chase Way in New Braunfels, Texas 78132.

Finally, we have a very special extra fare event for Thursday June 3rd 2010. For both the wives and husbands, and those who love steam engines, the Wimberly, Blanco and Southern will be open for rides and tour of their fantastic facility. This will be a minimum and first come first serve event. The fare will include bus and lunch at the railroad pavilion at the site. This will take a good part of the day. If you have never seen this great outdoor steam railroad, you can view the action on www.youtube.com. Go to the Wimberly, Blanco and Southern site and turn the volume up.

Well, there is a lot more coming, but there is only so much space. Still to come are the prototype tours, the Rail and Non-Rail Clinics, Shopping, Raffle items, and on and on. Remember, the dates, June 2nd through June 6th, and remember the Alamo. The Alamo Rails 2010 folks.

Our Host fine layout!



The Contest Corner – How to put together a good write-up.

by Duane Richardson, MMR and Contest Chairman

While I know that the contest isn't for everybody, I would like to take a minute of your time to make a pitch for the contest and the Achievement Program. Why? Because it **WILL** make you a better modeler. I guarantee it. If you put in the effort to build a model to qualify, you will find yourself reaching out to learn new techniques. Suddenly "That will do" isn't good enough and you and your friends will find that your models look better.

Perhaps the most common complaint I hear about the Model Contest and the Achievement Program has to do with the paperwork. "It's a model contest, not a writing contest". While this is very true, a good write-up is necessary to help explain what you have attempted to achieve. It doesn't have to be *War & Peace* but just enough to inform the judges about your model and what you have built.

As many of you may know, I am a narrow gauge modeler. If you were to bring me a D&RGW 3000 series box car I could judge the model with very little paperwork because I know the prototype. Now, if you were to bring me a Santa Fe box car I don't have the working knowledge of the prototype so I will have to rely on the modeler's write-up and Conformity documentation. All of that to say this, there isn't a judge in the world with enough knowledge of every railroad to be able to judge a model competently without a write-up. Again, we aren't looking for a novel.

First, I would suggest you go to the internet and download a copy of the Judging Guidelines from the NMRA's website. This is the judges' list of what to and what NOT to look for in each of the categories being scored. The PDF file can be found here: http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/pdf/2006-judging-guide-lines.pdf.

So what should a good write-up consist of? All you need to do is to take each category as described in the judging guidelines and write a paragraph or two telling about the things the judges are supposed to look for. Label each area so it's easy for that judging team to find it in your paperwork. Photos are helpful but not completely necessary in all cases.

Below, based on the judging guidelines, we will take each category and I'll mention a few things you might want to plan to include.

Construction

·Hours of labor.
·What kinds of materials were used.
·How was it constructed (any fabrication, Kitbashing, altered purchased or kit parts, Masters made for castings, photo-etched parts…)
·For open loads (explain how the load is secured: bolted, nailed, wedged, banded, chained, braced…)
·Complexity of construction (Explain why this was hard and where it was hard).

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Detail

·List all the detail parts involved
·How hard was it to do.
·Quantity of detail.
·Board by board construction? (while this is a Construction feature I like to point this out in Detail as well since you went to the trouble.)
·Bolt heads, nail heads & door knobs
·Placement of colors and lettering (While really under Finish and Lettering this is also a detail.)

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Conformity

·Prototype appearance (include plans and or photographs)
·Research involved
·Was selective compression used or not?
·Accuracy of lettering (Is the lettering placed as the prototype or prototypically placed for freelanced models (again, plans and/or photographs to support your work.)

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Finish and Lettering

·Multi-Colored and/or stripes. (These are harder to do, so point that out.)
·How the finish was applied?
·Decals (Mention if they were home made and if the correct fonts were used.)
·Talk about the weathering and how it was done. If there is no weathering, point that out as well. You can not be docked points for a non-weathered model.

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Scratchbuilding

·Show any plans that you've drawn.
·Show jigs made to build the model.
·Show masters and molds (if possible) that you made for the model.
·Talk about anything and everything you had to make.
·List the *quantity* of parts that were scratchbuilt. (Quality is judged under Construction.) Also, list any exempt parts that were used and it's a good idea to point out that they are exempt (just in case).

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Again, you don't need anything flashy. Just break it down for each section and state what you have done. Take the feedback and build on that for the next model.

Special Contest for San Antonio "Prove them wrong"

I've been told that you can't take a $5 or $10 kit and make a model out of it that will merit. Now, I know that it can be done because I couldn't let a challenge like that go unanswered so I built one. It's easy to do with a lot of extras that won't come with the kit and some planning. So, fellow modelers, here is your mission...Buy a small building kit that is no more than $15 in N or HO (for S and O scalers you might have to spend a little more by shoot for under $25 for the bigger scales). The kit is to be a simple building with 4 walls and no frills. Using DPM for example just start with a plain brick building. Add any and all extras that you want to your heart's desire...heck add new walls to extend the building. Let's show the critics that you can merit with a cheap kit if it's done right. Also, the instructions from the kit need to be included in the submitted contest forms so we can see what it was supposed to look like and what you have done instead.

Highlights from the DFW Convention

Phots by David Lamberts

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. **The upcoming events:**

LSR Convention:

Lone Star Region 59th Annual Convention June 2-6, 2010 San Antonio, TX

The Lone Star Region NMRA 59th Annual Convention will be held in San Antonio. Details are still being worked out and will be added as the details become more firm — Check the LSR website. **Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

LSR Division 3-Northeast Texas Division - Monthly **Garland**

Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website or contact Jerry Hoverson jhoverson@tx.rr.com

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers Meeting San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum; 11791 Wetmore Rd.; San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Trruner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

DFW Area Lionel Modular Group Meeting Plano

The DFW Lionel Modular Group meets the second Monday of the month at 6:45 p.m. in the Gladys Harrington Library, 1501 East 18th St.; Plano, TX. For more information call (972) 422-4330.

Houston Area Live Steamers Hockley ,TX

Over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting Irving, TX

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the NTC website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or its member clubs. All model railroaders welcome.

Events and Shows:

October 2009

31st Austin Area Model Railroad Jamboree. Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Clinics starting at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (Subjects announced at Show). Layout tours throughout the afternoon and evening, maps available at registration. Adults $5, Children $1, Family $10 (maximum); First United Methodist Church; 1004 N. Mays St.; Round Rock, TX. For more information call Tom Pearson (512) 388-2918.

November 2009

7th – 8th New Braunfels Railroad Museum 1st Annual Layout Competition and Show. Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6, Immediate family Max $6. New Braunfels Civic Center, 380 S. Seguin Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. For more information: www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org; Jim Edmondson (830) 629-2071 or JEdmondson@satx.rr.com or Jerry Garteiser (830) 438-7725 or jerryG@gvtc.com.

14th – 15th November 2009 Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sun. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Texas City Model Train Festival, The Texas City Museum, 409 6th Street, Texas City, TX. For more information: http://www.gcmrrc.org/images/TrainShow2009.asp or (409) 643-5799.

14th – 15th NTC 25th Annual Fort Worth Area Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children under 12 Free. Amon G. Carter Exhibits Building, Will Rogers Memorial Center, #1 Amon Carter Square; Fort Worth, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com; or Bart Bartholomew; 6403 Duffield Drive; Dallas, TX (972) 733-4998.

January 2010

16th – 17th NTC 25th Annual Dallas Area Train Show; Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children under 12 Free. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway; Plano, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com; or contact Bart Bartholomew; 6403 Duffield Drive; Dallas, TX (972) 733-4998.

Future Events (More Information to follow as available)

February

24-27, 2010 Sn3 Symposium 2010, Houston, Texas. Open to all Narrow Gaugers for more information see their web site www.sn3-2010.com

March 2010

20th – 21st J.E.T.T.S. Annual Train Show. Exhibit Building, Longview Fairgrounds, Longview, TX. For more information: Homer Fleischer (903) 753-9512 or homerflash@aol.com or http://www.calicomeadows.com/JETTS_flyer.pdf.

"**Spring 2010" Cotton Belt Historical Society Train Show**. For more information: http://www.calicomeadows.com/cm149.000.htm, (903) 839-2501, (903) 561-8946, (903) 316-9319

Mastering Modeling - Urban Archeology in Colorado... St Elmo

By Tracy Mitchell
Photos by Tracy Mitchell and Jim Lemmond

This past September, I got a chance to visit some of my favorite places in Colorado while in route to the NNG convention in Colorado Springs. My traveling partner for this trip was Jim Lemmond. Jim has never been on the eastern slope before and like me he really likes to look at old buildings. So it was a no brainer to take him to one of my favorite towns in Colo…. St Elmo.

What follows is a little history about St Elmo for those that are not familiar with St Elmo. St Elmo has one of the longest histories of any town in Colorado. It is also one of the best ghost towns in Colorado. The old town can be reached by automobile on a good dirt road. Because of its easy accessibility, it receives

many visitors during the summer months. It is not totally abandoned and many of the cabins have been restored for seasonal use. When we were there in Sept most of the dwellings were boarded up for the upcoming winter.

St Elmo was founded in 1871. It was originally called Forest City because of the dense growth of trees on the valley floor (which are still in the area). The Forest City name was duplicated in California and the Government asked that the Colorado town change its name. A committee was selected and the name was changed to St Elmo which was the name of a popular novel written by Augusta Evans at the time. St Elmo was founded on the rich mining that was in the area. It was also the sight of several crossroads to other mining areas, such as Tin Cup, Pitkin, Maysville, Nathrop and Buena Vista. In 1880 the Denver South Park and Pacific reached St Elmo, thus increasing the size of the town significantly. During its heyday St Elmo had 3 hotels, 5 restaurants, general store, grocery store, livery stable, feed store, billiard hall, several saloons, at least 3 sawmills and even 2 ore processing mills. They even had an attorney at law, a watchmaker and an assay office (still standing). The one odd thing is they never had a church in town. Although traveling ministers would use the school for worship.

The town's population peaked at over 2000 in 1882, which is remarkable looking at how small the town plot is. By 1926, after the South Park pulled up its rails, the town had shrunk to 6. Two long time residents were the Stark family, a brother and sister. They lived most of their lives in St Elmo. They saw the good times as well as the bad times. In 1952 the post office closed and the Highway Department stopped plowing the road during winter months. By then the Starks were the only residents left and it had become a true ghost town. Eventually the Starks grew too old to take care of themselves and they were taken away The brother passed away in 1958 and the sister followed two years later. The general store is named the Starks Store and is still open to tourists.

In 1890, a fire destroyed the south side of the town, never to be rebuilt. All that is left is a stone wall which prevented the fire from spreading and fire hydrants on that side of the street. Today this is the "Chipmunk Crossing". This is one of the fun things to do while there. You can sit down and, if you stay still long enough, they will be in your lap taking food from your hand. What a great place to take the kids.

St Elmo is a great place to photograph old wooden false front buildings, log cabins, and other types of structures. The residents take pride in their little community and try to keep the place in good condition. A few years ago the City Hall roof collapsed from an unusually large amount of snow. The next year the City Hall was completely rebuilt. They even rebuilt the old wooden sidewalks. That gives even more charm to the town. As many of you know, I have a love for Outhouses and St Elmo has some of the best standing Outhouses there are. Some with flat roofs, others are peaked and even a two holer can be found there.

To get to St Elmo follow Colo Hwy162 west at the intersection of Hwy 285 at Nathrop, just south of Buena Vista. You will pass Hot Spring, Chalk Cliffs, and Mt Princeton. Because St Elmo is on private property respect their wishes and take only photos and leave only foot prints.

LSR Youth Membership Program

By Tom Browning, LSR Youth Chair

After a very productive discussion with Rocky Jackson the former LSR Youth Chair, we decided I could lend a hand by resuming my responsibility of overseeing Article VI of the LSR By-Laws that addresses getting young people involved in our hobby and the LSR. The LSR Youth Membership Program's *objective* is to promote model railroading among young people. The *method* used is to sponsor student membership for one year. The division directors are responsible for nominating youths to represent their division to *implement* the program. My job is to encourage and assist them. I urge each member of the LSR to help your division directors find a youth for sponsorship. Please contact me at thomascb2004@sbcglobal.net if I can answer any questions or be of assistance.

Sam Brendle Youth Convention Scholarship

In the spirit of fostering growth of our hobby and supporting young members who may have independently shown an interest in model railroading, the Sam Brendle Youth Convention Scholarship is offered to help in their attendance at the Lone Star Region Convention in June. An award of $500 toward the expenses of the convention will be given to the selected candidate at the convention. (If earlier dispensation due to hardship is necessary to make attendance possible, this will be considered.) The Alamo Rails planning committee youth member states that the admission to the convention will be extended complimentary for the youth and one adult. Admission includes the regular admission, the Saturday evening Banquet and Sunday morning breakfast where the Scholarship recipient will be recognized. Any extra fare items or other memorabilia would need to be purchased.

The following are criteria for candidates:

1. The youth should not have a family member as a member of the NMRA or Lone Star Region.
2. The candidate should be 11 through 18 years of age.
3. A Lone Star Region member should submit the candidate's name.
4. A letter describing the candidate's interests in model railroading should accompany the candidate's submission (see below).
5. Names should be received with written or electronic confirmation by midnight of April 15th.
6. Recipient's selection is random.

In the near future you may enter your candidate's name on the LSR website at http://www.lonestarregion.com. Please contact me at thomascb2004@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

Tom Browning, LSR Youth Chair

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Rocky Jackson

Beginning July 1, 2009	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$ 765.51
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	36,806.12
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention	2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth 7/1/09	$39,571.63
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1	$1,815.48
Funds Held For Division 3	$305.68
Checking Account Income	
NMRA Region Rebate	$ 944.00
2009 Convention-DFW Trinity River	1,665.13
Vanguard MM (CD Fund) Interest	17.69
Vanguard MM (Convention Fund) Int.	6.76
Subtotal	$2,633.58
Checking Account Disbursements	
Contest Expenses	$ 378.00
LeRoy King Memorial Donation	75.00
Secretary/Treasurer & Postage	22.20
Marker Lamp Printing & Mailing	1,157.05
Subtotal	$1,632.25
Net Income/Loss	**$1,001.33**
Ending September 30, 2009	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$ 1,766.84
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	36,806.12
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention	2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth 9/30/09	$40,572.96
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1	$1,815.48
Funds Held For Division 3	$305.68

Total NMRA/LSR Membership inside the LSR area on September 30 was 992.

New Members – Please take note of these new NMRA/LSR members. They're listed alphabetically by state and by city, and their Division number is shown, to help identify those who live in your area. When you run into them, say hello, and invite them to attend your model-railroading activities

Louisiana

Philip Heiser, Schriever, Div 02

Texas

Brian Lingle, McKinney, Div 03
Cody Hilliard, Abilene, Div 05
Dennis McGonigle, Houston, Div 08
Ernest Zamparelli, Weatherford, Div 01
Kirk Tames, Austin, Div 04
Lee Gaca, Corsicana, Div 03
Michael Hiatt, Groesbeck, Div 04
Vern Leder, Colleyville, Div 01
William Fornshell, San Antonio, Div 06

Due to other commitments Rocky Jackson resigned as Secretary/Treasure as of September 30, 2009. Bill McPherson went to the Board Members via email, stating that Tom Browning had volunteered to serve out the term. The Board approved Tom Browning through email voting.

A Tribute to Rosalie 1931-2009

by; Bob Dannenbrink

The first Tuesday of May 2002, Dave, Rosalie and I were on our way to the meeting of the San Jac Model Railroad club. Dave and I were discussing the sad state of the DERAIL, the club newsletter and decided that we could do a better job. Rosalie, in the back seat, didn't say anything–she was smarter than we. At the club meeting, a Derail Advisory committee was formed and after much deliberation, they named Dave and me as editors–and that's the last advise we had from the advisory committee. Our first issue in September was pretty amateurish–because we were amateurs. Rosalie had computer skills and experience with desk top publishing, so she rolled up her sleeves and stepped in. The next issue in October was a decided improvement.. She introduced the Derail Logo, better form and substance and a bright new issue appeard. Soon color and photos were added and she managed the membership list so that e mail delivery became practical.

Dave and I were listed as Co-editors, and for the first several issues, Rosalie's name didn't appear on the masthead. We decided that wasn't right, so she consented to being listed as "Graphic Designer". By rights, it should have been; "Rosalie Milton, Editor, Dave and Bob, copy boys".

From October 2002 to September 2009, she edited 86 issues plus several extras for jamborees.. The President and Treasurer got their stuff in and other members supplied material, but often we had to write it ourselves or use fillers. Rosalie put it all together–sometimes a skinny issue of 4 pages but often more. There were times when after a chemo treatment she didn't feel like it, but she never missed an issue. She was proud of it and we are proud of her

Sometimes we had bad news to report: the passing of Lucille and Larry Redmond, Emile and Ed Quinn, Ken Caulking and Ben Pearlman. And now Rosalie– I will miss her very much.

Company Store

	HO		N-Scale
Casey Lines	OUT		$ 5.00
Texas & African	$5.00		OUT
Waco Austin & Bryan	OUT		$ 5.00
Anniversary Car 1951	OUT	per set	$10.00
Anniversary Cars 2001	OUT	per set	$10.00
ITC - Bob Clarke	$5.00	per set	$10.00
Quin Lines	$12.00		OUT

Check your layout and be sure you have one of each *special run* Region car. If not we can take care of the shortage post haste.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches	$5.00 each
Auto/Window Region Decal	$ .50
N Scale Nevadun Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Daw Cha Southern Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Downe and Owlte	$4.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Cape Able and Port Entous	$4.00 per sheet

Shipping

Please add $5.00 for up to 3 cars and add $1.00 for patches and decals

Matthew Latham, Dispatcher
2320 Hickory Leaf Lane
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4945
972-358-6168
E-mail: wnrailway@yahoo.com

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

Hi all hope you are having a productive fall. I'm writing this a day before a few of us from Division 1 head to Denver for RockyOp. I'm excited to be going back to some of the great layouts I operated on two years ago, and hope to have a full report the next time we get together. Following that trip, I'm immediately going south to operate with the Houston Operators Of Tiny Electric Railway Systems (H.O.O.T.E.R.S.). October is always a very busy month for model railroading. Next year we reciprocate by holding the DFW Interchange again. I hope to see some of your layouts open for that.

I did get a chance to go to Tulsa for the first Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Group meet there. The day long meeting featured talks by Andy Sperandeo, Paul Dolkos, Marty McGuirk, Keith Jordan and Chuck Hitchcock. Besides presentations on layout design from each of the speakers, there were also opportunities to operate on several local layouts.

Denny Bullard has given me several excellent suggestions for meeting ideas. When we got together in July, Denny had the idea that we all bring our favorite locomotive. This went over very well, and we had some excellent models to share. I asked everyone to share the story of why the engine they brought was their particular favorite. Mike Walter won the contest with a fantastic brass O-scale Southern Pacific that he had built from a kit. Mike won a $25 gift card for his efforts.

The next meeting will be November 21 at 10AM in Room 1 of the LMRA administration building - 3400 Bryant-Irvin Rd., Ft.

Worth, TX 76109. Keep an eye on the division website at cowcatcherdivision.com for more information about the meeting. I'm shooting to increase the meetings from four a year to six. That puts the next meeting on January 9th.

The theme for the November meeting, also suggested by Denny, is going to be "Build something from under your layout." In other words, put together some kit or project that you've been storing under your layout or in a closet and bring it to the meeting to share with the group. It can be some half completed structure or car kit or whatever you find under there. The point is to encourage you to get it out and build it. We'll have a prize again for the one that wins the popular vote.

Chris Gavin nominated a 17 year old modeler named Tripper for the LSR Youth Scholarship. Tripper is an active member at the Texas Western club and his mom claims that his first word was "locomotive." He enjoys modeling Santa Fe passenger trains and WWII military trains. In 2006 he started writing articles for the club's monthly newsletter.

I'd like to thank Stan Pirzchalski and Denny Bullard from Division 1 as well as Duane Richardson, Tom Browning and Charlie Kirk from Division 3 for answering the call for AP judges. I'd like to get a bullpen of 6 or 8 judges from Division 1 that we can call on when one of our neighbors has completed the requirements for a certificate and needs to have his efforts judged. After talking to Al Boos, I realized you don't have to be a MMR to be an effective judge. If you're interested in quality models and have an eye for detail, let me know and I'll see if I can get someone to give a small group a clinic on AP judging.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com.

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider

This has been a really great summer. I have had the chance to visit with the owners of, and operate on, some of the Bayou Division's finest model railroads. This report will be a bit longer than usual, but it will give you a much better overall view of our division's layouts and highlight some of our members' modeling capabilities.

Jim Lofland of Baton Rouge is a retiree from Shell and the creator of the "**Tall Timber & Santa Fe"** HO layout that follows no prototype, but includes a lot of Santa Fe in the 20 X 32 layout. This railroad is 31 years old with scenery 100% complete, and represents the era from the 1920's to the present including both steam and diesel operations. Jim has a wealth of beautifully constructed Campbell kits as well as kit-bashed and scratch-built models. The layout includes 400-feet of main line track and approximately 400-feet of passing and industrial sidings. All tracks and 130 turnouts are hand laid. The "TT&SF" is a point to loop layout but operated as a point to point. The layout contains three yards and seven towns for local switching. The theme for the "TT&SF" is based on operations with all car, locomotive, and caboose movements being managed via the windows based Rail-Op computer program. Model railroad guests are always welcome on the "Tall Timber & Santa Fe", but call Jim first at 225-292-0598.

Rod Fredericks of Baton Rouge, is just starting his layout. He is an accomplished wood-worker and has put up a first class building in his backyard to house both his railroad and his work place. He has more drawers and cabinets than one could hope for, and they are all full of supplies, tool, and paints. Rod is a highly creative modeler with numerous completed models ready to be installed. There is nothing narrow minded about Rod until it comes to his narrow gauge trains. The **Silver Valley & Zenith Railway** has begun construction, pushing roadbed and rail through Black Canyon and the mining town of Zenith.

The **SV&Z** is free lance based on Colorado narrow gauge practices, and serves the mining and lumber industry as well as being a common carrier to various industries and communities along the way. The **SV&Z** is an HOn3 narrow gauge mountain model railroad under construction in a 12' x 30' dedicated layout room. The railroad is double deck. When completed it will have a mainline length of 250'. The layout is wired for DCC but the ultimate provider is still under consideration. Rod Fredericks can be reached at: freddie@lsu.edu

The **Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club** has been around since 1972. Their railroad is the **Louisiana Northern,** and it interchanges with CSX on their 34 X 30 HO layout in a self-contained building. The LN is grounded in the mid 1950's and features both Steam and Diesel. The club has recently converted to Digitrax DCC, has over 500' of mainline and 3-4 hundred feet of sidings and yards, and is approximately 75% sceniced. The club meets each Monday evening at 7:00pm and is open to visitors. Call the Club President, **Al Bobbit**, @ 225-931-0486 to make arrangements.

Keith Broussard of New Iberia has a Lionel based model railroad in an oversize bedroom in his home. Keith is a full-time tugboat/crew boat captain on the local waterways. He is assisted in his model railroading by his wife on their 16'X 16' layout. The layout itself is centered around the town and port of **Loganville**. The layout features Lionel and Mike's Train House locomotives, cars, and track. Everything operates smoothly. Keith is very interested in automation and has built several small dioramas within the layout to showcase his efforts. He has built a horse walker, a hot air balloon, an airplane, and an operating crane. Keith is the newest member of Division 2. He is currently at home recovering from a mishap on board his ship that resulted in his having his kneecap re-built and a broken leg bone reattached. He will be in rehab thru Christmas. Keith has already been inducted into the **Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club in Jackson, LA** and is an active member.

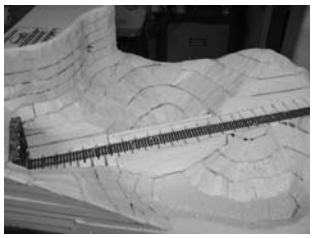
The weekend of October 3rd was a busy one for this district. We had a train show in Mandeville, LA that was very good according to all reports. Several friends went and all came back with purchases they were proud of.

Christmas is on its way. Hard to believe that jolly old St. Nick will soon be on our radar screens all over the country, but believe me, it's a comin'. We should all consider opening our pikes to the public during the Christmas season, even if our themes are not about Christmas. Trains are imbued with the "Spirit of Christmas", even though they may run through desert scenery. Kids love them. Grownups love them. And I sure love them. Let's share the Christmas season with all, and remember…..until next time, we have a saying in the better half of Louisiana – "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – "Let the good times roll!"

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR

Hi everyone, hope this finds you well and acting like a squirrels. You know how squirrels start gathering nuts and start storing them for the winter about this time of year. We, as model railroaders, tend to do the same thing but instead of nuts we start laying out and planning model projects for when the weather turns and forces us back inside. And since we're all a little nuts anyway it seemed only fitting to get my point across. Now is a great time to get started on that next step or project that you've been putting off because of other summer time commitments. The bad weather will be on us soon so start planning now so you can enjoy winter!



Here in Division 3 we've been digging into the "Scenery" achievement with several clinics on building scenery with a foam base. It's been a lot of fun and we've come a long way. With any luck the clinics have motivated some of you to get off the fence and dive into adding scenery to your layout. I've heard from several people how scenery scares them but that's the beauty of foam scenery, it is virtually Murphy proof and you don't even have to have a detailed plan in mind before you start. You just kind of let it happen and take shape as it wants, which makes things all that more realistic looking.

I had to take the October meeting off due to surgery and want to express my deepest thanks to Larry Swigert and Duane Richardson for stepping in and taking care of the meeting for me.

For those that don't know, the monthly Division-3 meeting is held on the third Saturday of the month at 10:15 in the Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin Street, downtown Garland. We've been able to secure this location at least for the near future but are looking for a new venue. The library is good but there are some clinics we just can't do there and we were able to get this location when Duane was the director because he lives in Garland. This not being the case anymore, we are living on borrowed time so to speak. So I'm asking for help from all Division-3 members, be on the lookout for a new location within the Division-3 boundaries and let me know if you have any possible leads, I will follow up on them and hopefully we can find a new home.

Take care all and get working on your latest project but most of all have some railroading FUN!

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bill Dryden, Jr

No Report Received

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

The Lubbock Model Railroad club has begun plans for the state meeting in 2011. We have organized about half the committees and assigned directors. Next week we are meeting with the Lubbock Visitors Bureau to begin the process of finding a suitable hotel. We will be assisted by some help from our friends in the Amarillo club.

This week is our fall "Play Day." We have a wide range of scales to show including a garden-scale layout and some N scale tabletop layouts.

Bob Roth has been kind enough to send me e-mail copies of the Amarillo Railroad Museum's newsletter, *Run 8*. Construction on their layout (in their own building!) continues with more work on the backdrop including clouds. The wired conduit and boxes have had lamp sockets connected and lights are on as far as the conduit was installed. Tracy Ball has been working at taping, bedding and floating the seams in the ceiling over the Amarillo Yard.

Division 6

by Fred Bock, MMR

Errata: Division 6 is not co-sponsoring the "Alamo Rails 2010" LSR convention. The convention is co-sponsored by the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA) and the Lone Star Region (LSR) officers. Proceeds from the convention will be split 50-50 between SAMRA and the LSR treasuries.

Are you interested in, or currently participating in, the NMRA **Achievement Program** (AP)? Got a "Golden Spike" Certificate for your layout yet? (It's not hard.) Working on any of the AP Certificates? (e.g. "Engineering-Civil", "Engineering-Electrical", "Structures", "Scenery", etc. etc.)? Need help learning a particular skill? Wondering about the "paperwork"? Working towards an MMR?

I've talked with a few people about starting an "*AP Support Group*" for those working on AP Certificates to get together periodically to exchange tips, get answers to questions, and share what they're working on. If you're interested in participating in such a group, contact me at FbockLSRDiv6@aol.com. If there's enough interest, we'll get one started.

Hobbytown Expansion: the Hobbytown-USA hobby shop (located on Austin Highway in N.E. San Antonio) will be expanding to a second location. This much-larger facility will be located in North Central San Antonio on Loop 410 at Vance Jackson (2505 NW Loop 410). Telephone: 210-348-8697. The expansion will include a much-enlarged Train Department. The new location should be open by the time this issue of the *Marker Lamp* appears.

SANTRAK move?: related to the above, there's an excellent chance that the San Antonio N-trak Association (SANTRAK) will

be relocating to the back half of the current Hobbytown-USA on Austin Highway sometime before the 15th of January. The advantages will include better lighting, heat and air conditioning, more open access, and "dropping by out front" to purchase supplies on the spur of the moment. SANTRAK won't be open outside of Hobbytown's normal business hours (which is currently the case anyway). SANTRAK has also started offering monthly clinics at Hobbytown (Austin Highway) the fourth Saturday of each month. As of publication, the clinics have covered scratchbuilding tree armatures, building trees, and paint-and-Celluclay scenery.

Texas Transportation Museum (TTM): Military personnel admissions: TTM is proud to announce that as of August 2009, we are offering *free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families.* TTM is also offering a discount coupon for Sunday visits. For details, go to http://www.texastransportationmuseum.org/hours.htm.

Santa's Railroad Wonderland: San Antonio's best Christmas Show! Eight Nights of family Christmas fun in December. Beginning on Saturday December 5th, "Santa's Railroad Wonderland" is an old fashioned family-friendly Christmas Show. It runs eight nights over the three weekends before Christmas Day and one night, December 26, following the big day. If you are looking for an inexpensive way to celebrate the Holiday Season, complete with thousands of lights, train and hay rides, and model railroad layouts (in G (garden), O-tinplate, and HO), this is it. (The SANTRAK raffle layout will be on display and the winning ticket drawn prior to Christmas). For details, go to http://www.texastransportationmuseum.org/SHD.htm.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season!

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The selection of the Host Group for LSR conventions and the distribution of proceeds are prescribed by the By-laws of the Lone Star Region in Article V - Conventions as follows:

Paragraph 3 - The Convention shall be hosted, planned, managed, and conducted by any local model railroad group or organization in the Lone Star Region. The prospective Host Group or organization should present its bid to the Board of Directors for approval and selection. Such a bid should be presented two years before the proposed Convention date, whenever possible.

At the January 10, 2009 Board Meeting, SAMRA offered to host the 2010 convention, and the Board accepted the SAMRA offer.

Paragraph 7 - An amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the surplus of Convention monetary income over Convention incurred expenses shall be remitted to the Region Convention Fund. Income from auction gross proceeds and from the per capita fee collection shall not be included when determining the Convention monetary income.

The LSR Constitution and the LSR By-laws do not prescribe or suggest what the Host Group does with its fifty percent portion of the net income from a LSR convention. The LSR president, other officers, and the LSR Board are not granted any control over this net income retained by the Host Group.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

First off, I want to remind everyone that the JETT's Longview Train show will be the LAST weekend in March! I know this is a bit early, but let's get it on our calendars. There have been some location availability issues, but Homer and Crew now have everything under control.

I hope everyone has had a productive late summer and early fall, I know I have.

We have just returned from the LMRA Train Show. It was a HUGH success! Bob Bray and crew outdid themselves this year, attendance was way up, the number of vendors up—in fact they had to add more tables, despite a couple of cancelations-and we saw more kids then ever! You should have seen the "Thomas" play area Saturday afternoon, pure chaos, I could not believe there are that many ways to assemble track! "Thomas the Tank Engine" is alive and well in the younger generation. It was a fun show for the Ark-La-Tex crew, now if it wasn't raining for the drive over and back; it would have been a perfect train weekend.!

The KCS's Holiday Express is on track for another busy season. You can access the schedule at KCSouthern.com, for a list of cities and towns it will visit. It will be too late for the folks from Texas to see the trains—we have a bit of a lead time for reports—but sorry! We will be stopping in 8 locations in Texas—we will be visiting a number of towns on the "macaroni line" for the first time. There are no major changes in the cars/layouts for this year; business has been slow so we are having to watch our pennies, but it still very impressive.

Charles G. is moving along on his benchwork, despite a sore back. He has a very impressive "train room". I am looking forward to doing some ops on his layout.

The Children's Museum in Alex has had tremendous success with their Junior Engineer program. Lou and Friends continue to recruit and train(pun) a number of future model railroaders, and the girls really love it!

I wish to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

Well a year is almost gone again. This year Division 8 has had a full year of actives. We started earlier in the year with the first chili cook-off. A day of chili, trains, and friendship made for good time. In the middle we had a great Region convention in Dallas this year.

During the last four weekends of the hot part of the year, we ended on a roll. We had "Hands On" make and take clinics on building a small shed. And with the first cool day of autumn, we had our annual picnic and meeting at Zube Park with H.A.L.S. hosting a day of train rides and Fried Turkey. What a way to close out the year!

It is that time again that I ask the Membership to send in their nominees for the Division youth member. We need to keep the youths of the hobby active as long as we can.

Starting with this report, I start my last year as Division 8 President (term limits). It has been fun being the Division 8 Prez for two terms. But I am still having fun being your LSR Director for Division 8. Have great end of the year; and I will be talking to all you soon with more ideas for next year.

Pike Ads

AMARILLO RAILROAD MUSEUM

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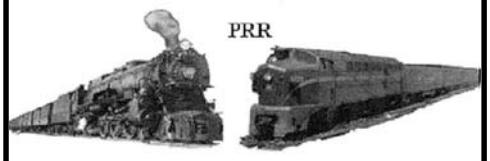
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